

FCT

Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia
MINISTÉRIO DA EDUCAÇÃO E CIÊNCIA



International Scientific Cooperation in Neglected Tropical Diseases: Portuguese Participation in EDCTP-2

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1. Overview of Current FCT Research & Development Investment in NTDs (2013-2016)

FCT Fellowships and Research Projects in NTDs (2013-2016)

	Doctoral Fellowships	Postdoctoral Fellowships	Research Projects	Total
Dengue	4	3	2	9
Leishmaniasis	2	1	3	6
Human african trypanosomiasis	2	1	1	4
Buruli ulcer		2		2
Trachoma	1	1		2

Ranking of FCT Funded Research Units

Research Unit	No of fellowships/projects
Instituto de Medicina Molecular, FMUL	6
Instituto de Higiene e Medicina Tropical, Universidade Nova de Lisboa	5
Instituto de Biologia Molecular e Celular, Porto	4
Instituto de Biotecnologia e Bioengenharia, Instituto Superior Técnico, UTL	2
Instituto de Investigação em Ciências da Vida e Saúde, Universidade do Minho	1
Instituto de Tecnologia Química e Biológica, Universidade Nova de Lisboa	1
Instituto Nacional de Saúde Doutor Ricardo Jorge	1
Associação da Faculdade de Farmácia para a Investigação e Desenvolvimento (FARM-ID)	1
Centro em Rede de Investigação em Antropologia (CRIA)	1

FCT Fellowships and Research Projects in NTDs, HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis (2013-2016)

	No of Fellowships and Research Projects
NTDs	23
Malaria	38
HIV/AIDS	35
Tuberculosis	30

How to enhance research opportunities in NTDs (and other major epidemics)?

2. European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP)

EDCTP – First Phase (2003-2015)

Established in 2003, with **Portugal as founding member**.
FCT as representative for Portugal at the General Assembly.

Emanating from the **Article 185 (Lisbon Treaty)**: “enables the EU to participate in research programmes undertaken jointly by several Member States, including participation in the structures created for the execution of national programmes.”

Aim: advancing a concerted European response to HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, with a strict focus on Sub-Saharan Africa, and framed by the UN Millennium Development Goals (2000-2015).

EDCTP – First Phase (2003-2015) (cont.)

Major results:

- Development of 8 improved medical treatments, in particular for new-borns, children or pregnant/lactating women suffering from HIV/AIDS and malaria;
- Launch of 4 African Regional Networks of Excellence promoting South-South cooperation; over 400 African researchers have been trained;
- Establishment of the Pan-African Clinical Trials Registry and the African Vaccine Regulators Forum.

Despite success: major epidemics-related mortality still very daunting, and demands an expansion of the current programme.

EDCTP 2 (2014-2024)

EDCTP-2 builds on the upcoming Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (**Horizon 2020**).

European Commission's co-funding proposal on the table: **683 million Euro for 2014-2024**, corresponding to equal amount allocated by EDCTP participating states altogether.

Objective: Acceleration of the development of new or improved tools (drugs, microbicides, diagnostics and vaccines) against poverty-related diseases (HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and **NIDs**) in partnership with sub-Saharan Africa, by provision of a critical mass of resources to support clinical trials.

EDCTP 2 (2014-2024) (cont.)

Specific Objectives:

- To accelerate research and development of new or improved diagnostics, drugs, microbicides and vaccines against HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and **NIDs**;
 - To coordinate the European national programmes to effectively work in synergy and in mutual partnership with sub-Saharan African stakeholders in conducting relevant clinical trials for the development of the tools to fight HIV/AIDS, TB, malaria and **NIDs**;
 - To develop and strengthen the capacities in sub-Saharan Africa to ensure that the relevant clinical trials are conducted using best practice;
 - To develop closer partnerships with the pharmaceutical industry and other third parties to more effectively deliver the objectives of the programme.
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Programme Implementation and Activities

Activity Area 1: Disease-specific priorities for clinical trials and health services/optimisation research

Prioritisation of Calls for Proposals for NID projects:

- Treatment (evaluation of novel drugs and drug combinations in advanced clinical stages);
 - Diagnostics (evaluation of diagnostic products);
 - Prevention (candidate vaccines testing);
 - Implementation research.
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Programme Implementation and Activities (cont.)

Activity Area 2: Capacity Building

Training and mentorship, in the context of institutions

Research fellowships aimed at building individual scientific leadership capacity

Partnerships with industry

Activity Area 3: Networking of European and African Programmes

North-North networking

North-South networking

South-South networking

Activity Area 4: Advocacy and Resource Mobilisation

3. Portugal in EDCTP-2

Portugal in EDCTP-2

Attribution of **200.000 Euro annually for 10 years** – in cash or/and in kind – approved by the Secretary of State for Science.

Principles of participation:

- Building on capital generated by the Portuguese scientific community throughout the last 20 years;
 - Collaborating with manifold partners with different capabilities (public and private, European and African);
 - Enhancing African participation, in terms of proactive engagement in common projects (research, capacity building...) and division of costs.
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Portugal in EDCTP-2 (cont.)

Priorities of Portuguese participation:

- Focus on the Portuguese-speaking countries, in light of common interests and goals, including other European and African partners;
- Ensuring local ownership and sustainability.

Work Plans for EDCTP-2:

- Calculation of current in kind contribution (i.e. fellowships and research projects aligned with the EDCTP-2 programme);
 - Mapping of other public and private EDCTP-2-related programmes (beyond FCT);
 - Networking domestically and internationally.
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Actions to be taken

Ongoing consultation

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Two networking events

1. Domestic (March 2014);
 2. Domestic-International (July 2014).
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